

four different publishers. Gary's dedication to the paper was most prevalent when the Sentinel burned down in 1974. To ensure the paper was still delivered on time he drove daily to Glenwood Springs to print the paper between shifts clearing the rubble from the fire. After 14 years as a pressman, Gary moved to the camera department, preparing photos for printing. His hard work and skills helped establish the Sentinel's reputation for superb color photography.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the career of Gary Thomas to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation. I would like to congratulate him on an outstanding career. His tireless work has been crucial in ensuring the quality of the Daily Sentinel, and I would like to wish him the best in his retirement.

#### CYPRUS SETTLEMENT

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement on Cyprus that protects the rights of Turkish and Greek Cypriots alike.

As the people of Cyprus head to the polls on April 24th to vote on the settlement plan put forth by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, I am concerned that numerous provisions in the proposal fail to uphold the fundamental rights of the Greek Cypriot community.

Since Turkey's invasion and illegal occupation of northern Cyprus in 1974, the government of Cyprus has vigorously pursued efforts to reunify the island through an equitable and viable settlement. While the Turkish Cypriot government under the leadership of Rauf Denktash has repeatedly stonewalled negotiations, the commitment of Greek Cypriots to a unified Cyprus has been unwavering.

The Annan plan, which was originally drafted by the Secretary General in November of 2002, has undergone five major revisions to accommodate the demands of Mr. Denktash. I'm concerned that the proposal sacrifices too many of the Greek Cypriots' needs in return for Mr. Denktash's acquiescence.

The Annan plan would authorize Turkish troops to remain in Cyprus indefinitely, threatening the security and stability of the island. While the number of troops would gradually decrease to 650 over a period of 14 years, their continuing presence and intervention rights would prevent Cyprus from achieving full sovereignty.

I am also concerned that the Annan plan would continue to allow Turkish settlers to illegally occupy northern Cyprus. Numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions have called for the withdrawal of all Turkish settlers from Cyprus, yet the Annan plan would permit 45,000 settlers to receive automatic citizenship rights within the United Cyprus Republic and additional settlers to remain on the island as permanent residents.

Moreover, the Annan plan imposes tough restrictions on the right of displaced Greek Cypriots to return to their homes. The agreement would prohibit Greek Cypriots from accounting for more than eighteen percent of the

population of the Turkish Cypriot Constituent State for the first nineteen years, or until Turkey accedes to the European Union, even though it is their native soil. These Greek Cypriots would not have the right to vote for representatives in the federal Senate, further denying fundamental rights to many citizens.

Finally, the Annan plan fails to adequately compensate displaced Greek Cypriots for the loss of their property. According to the plan, 90 percent of the compensation from the federal State would be paid for by Greek Cypriots, meaning that Greek Cypriot taxpayers are forced to pay for the loss of their own property.

The Annan plan is a positive starting point on the path toward a negotiated settlement, but it is not an ending point. In order for a solution to the Cyprus problem to succeed, the rights of both parties must be equally guaranteed.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK J. EIDING

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to highlight the accomplishments of a Philadelphia labor legend, Mr. Patrick J. Eiding. Mr. Eiding is President of the Philadelphia Council of the AFL-CIO and a representative of the working man and woman. He has effectively and consistently fought for the rights of the great citizens of Philadelphia.

Mr. Eiding rose through the ranks of leadership throughout his career, holding positions such as President of the Asbestos Workers Middle Atlantic States Conference and President of the Mechanical Trades Council in Philadelphia and New Jersey. He currently serves as an official for both the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Building Trades Councils, as well as the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Mr. Eiding represents the interests of working families through his involvement on numerous labor boards and commissions. He co-chairs the Philadelphia Area Labor Management and serves as Commissioner for the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Philadelphia Planning Commission. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and sits on the Board of Directors for organizations such as the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Since being elected President of the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO, Mr. Eiding has spread the message of the working family, co-hosting the weekly "Labor to Neighbor" radio show whose goal is to educate listeners on the issues affecting the current working family and to voice the needs and opinions of the community.

I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Patrick Eiding for his career of service and dedication to the working families of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHAWNA VALDEZ

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Shawna Valdez for her selfless dedication to the community of Dolores, Colorado, and congratulate her on being recognized by the Dolores Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Citizen of the Year. The award is presented to an individual who has shown an outstanding commitment to the Dolores community, and Shawna could not be a more worthy recipient. It is a privilege to pay tribute to Shawna for her well-deserved award, and her ongoing efforts to better her community.

A lifelong resident of Dolores, Shawna participates in a vast array of civic functions in her community. A past president of the Dolores Chamber of Commerce, she currently serves as a member of their board of directors. She also serves on the board of the Community Center, the McPhee Lake Planning Committee, and is a member of the Dolores Library Board. Dolores is also an active member of the local Methodist Church and Dolores Rotary Club, and is a past member of the local school Accountability Committee and the Booster Club. Her enthusiasm for taking part in these organizations comes from the joy she receives in giving back to the community she loves.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Shawna Valdez before this body of Congress and this Nation. Her efforts to strengthen her community are truly remarkable, and the recognition she received from the Dolores Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Citizen of the Year is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Shawna for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 89th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were brutally massacred by the Ottoman Turk regime. The Armenian Genocide was one of the darkest tragedies in human history, one that must never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, nearly three hundred Armenian intellectuals and political leaders were rounded up, deported and executed under the orders of the Ottoman Turk Regime, marking the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century. Later that day, 5,000 more Armenians were slaughtered in their homes and on the streets. For 5 years, the brutal regime carried out the systematic destruction of the Armenian people through forced labor, concentration camps, and death marches, until millions were dead or exiled.